

MEETING SUMMARY
COLUMBIA CITY PARKING WORKGROUP
JUNE 17, 2003
COLUMBIA CITY LIBRARY
7:00 – 8:00 PM

ATTENDEES

Karen Kinney, Columbia City Farmers
Market
Mary Jo Torgeson, Columbia Branch
Library

Meghan Shepard, Seattle Department of
Transportation (SDOT),
Randy Wiger (SDOT),

Notes taken by Randy Wiger

ACTION ITEMS

- Meghan said SDOT could gather signatures from property-owners for switching the side of the street that parking is on along 37th Ave s between S. Edmonds and S. Hudson.
- Meghan will e-mail recommendations to the larger Workgroup e-mail list, and incorporate comments from today's meeting and other feedback into the Recommendations.
- Meghan will also contact the Post Office to explore lot-sharing with the Library.
- Meghan will attend an upcoming Columbia City Business Alliance meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

Farmer's Market Parking

Karen Kinney commented that parking for the Farmer's Market seems less intense, perhaps in part to arrangement with a private lot, and signage - 20 people used it the first 2 weeks.

Angled Parking Opportunity Map

Meghan presented the Angled Parking Opportunity Map: on S. Angeline east of Rainier Ave there would be a maximum gain of 9 spaces, on S. Ferdinand east of Rainier Ave there would be a maximum gain of 8 spaces, on S. Ferdinand west of Rainier Ave, 0 spaces, and on S. Hudson west of Rainier Ave, 4 spaces.

PARKING ON 37TH AVE S

Meghan went on report that it would not be possible to use the Cumulative Reserve Fund (CRF) To provide a sidewalk on S. Hudson east of Rainier Ave east of Rainier Ave. However, Geo-Rep Tony Mazella thought it might be possible to use 2004 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to do this. She went on to say that installing a sidewalk there would cause a loss of existing angled parking there, but many of these spaces could be replaced by putting in parallel parking on both sides of the street (currently there is angled parking on one side, no parking on the other).

Meghan addressed parking along 37th Ave s between S. Edmonds and S. Hudson. It is probably not feasible to remove the planting strip there and put in angled parking in its place - there would

be a net increase of only 4 spaces, and it would probably not come across as highly-productive use of funds in any competitive process.

Karen asked if it would be possible to switch side of street which has the parking on this block? Currently the parking is on the east side of 37th Ave S., but there are fewer curb cuts on the west side of this block.

Meghan said yes, it would be possible, and signatures would need to be gathered from property owners - since there are probably on a few, SDOT could do this.

Karen asked if it would be possible to get way-finding signage for off-street parking lots?

Meghan said yes, that a process similar to that used in Pioneer Square could be conducted, where they created a parking validation program including engaging a contractor to build and install signs.

Columbia City Parking Implementation Recommendations

Some discussion on Recommendation #1 - people will drive until there is no parking available, then either deal with it or stop coming. Yes, Flexbucks to use with the new Flexcar location are being discussed among Columbia City businesses - one way to reach employees would be to find out when businesses have their weekly/monthly employee meetings and ask to talk about Flexbucks there. One strategy would be to work with people who live nearby to the Columbia City main business corridor and encourage them to walk more - sort of strengthening a focus on the "already converted" and reach them more thoroughly.

Discussion on Recommendation #3 - Attention is being given to the question of whether Sound Transit will fund the first few rounds of RPZ permits for residents. Sound Transit will do a parking inventory six months before the station opening, and will work with community on changes based on the inventory.

Discussion on Recommendation #4 - Acknowledgement that existing lots, such as the pay lot owned by Robert Mohn at Edmonds, will not always be there. Meghan commented that it would be worth pursuing for Columbia City businesses to acquire their own lot and manage it similar to what the U-District does. Also, it is possible to have DCLU review the land use code with an eye to possible changes to parking requirements.

Discussion on Recommendation #5 - Meghan stressed that we want to be sure that property owners know how they can make the changes to on-street parking described in the green Parking Guide booklet - copies can be made available to the Business Alliance and/or Revitalization Committee, and anyone else.

Discussion on Recommendation #6 - Comment about if there is any kind of "starter" trip reduction (TDM) program that would be worth implementing so that the neighborhood could become familiar with how it works - such as Flexcar - and which could then be ramped up as the need grows?

Meghan asked if the Workgroup saw anything that had been left out of the recommendations as a whole? Karen said the only thing she could think of is the issue of meters one day coming to Columbia City.

Next Steps

Meghan will e-mail recommendations to the larger Workgroup e-mail list, and incorporate comments from today's meeting and other feedback into the Recommendations.

Meghan will also contact the Post Office to explore lot-sharing with the Library. And she will attend an upcoming Columbia City Business Alliance meeting.

Meeting Adjourned